

*F*or the  
Word of God  
is living  
and powerful.

Hebrews 4:12a NKJV

Covenant Reformed Church

December 20, 2009 AM

# MORNING WORSHIP

December 20, 2009

## Order of Worship

Prelude	<i>Accompanist, Laura Rus</i>
Call to Worship	<i>Luke 1:46-50,55</i>
Prayer of Invocation	
*Hymn of Praise # <b>51</b>	<i>"Now unto Jehovah, Ye Sons of the Mighty"</i>
*God's Greeting	
Reading of the Law	<i>Deuteronomy 5</i>
Hymn of Confession # <b>44</b>	<i>"Lord, I Lift My Soul to Thee"</i>
Assurance of Pardon	<i>Matthew 1:21-23</i>
Congregational Prayer	
*Hymn of Preparation # <b>42</b>	<i>"Ye Gates, Lift Your Heads"</i>
Scripture Reading & Text	<i>Luke 1:67-80</i>
Sermon	<i>"Christmas and the Wheels of History (Part 1)," page 4</i>
Prayer of Application	
*Hymn of Dedication # <b>333:1,2,4</b>	<i>"Blest Be the God of Israel"</i>
Offertory	<i>The offering is for Christian Education Assistance Fund</i>
*Doxology # <b>348:1</b>	<i>"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"</i> <i>(unannounced)</i>
*Benediction	
*Postlude	
<i>*Please stand if you are able.</i>	

*“ But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,  
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me  
The One to be Ruler in Israel,  
Whose goings forth are from of old,  
From everlasting.”  
Micah 5:2*

**Welcome to all who worship with us this morning!**  
Our services will be led today by our pastor, Rev. Patrick Edouard.

### **Prayer Matters**

#### **Illness**

Harold Den Besten (Parish 8) remains a patient in the Pella Regional Hospital, following the diagnosis of lung cancer. Please pray that the Lord would comfort His servant during this time of severe trial.

Pete Rus (Parish 9) continues to receive care at the skilled care unit of the Pella Hospital following hip surgery.

#### **Sympathy**

We express our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Marion Wichhart (Parish 8) who died on Saturday, December 12. His funeral was held last Wednesday in our church.

We also express our Christian sympathy to Sylvia Nieuwsma (Parish 5), the Calvin & Sharon Fopma family (Parish 16), and the Terry & Nicole Fopma family (Parish 2) in the death of Sylvia's brother-in-law and their uncle, Harold Beyer, on Saturday, December 12. The funeral was held last Wednesday at the Sully CRC.

#### **The Gift of Life**

We rejoice with Kent & Deanne Breems (Parish 16) in the birth of a healthy daughter, Elsa Ann, on Monday, December 14.

#### **Christmas Program**

After the morning service, the 3 year olds-5th grade should go to their Sunday School and Catechism rooms to get ready for the program.

<b>**The Covenant Communiqué deadline is today.</b>
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## *Christmas and the Wheels of History (Part 1)*

Scripture Reading & Text: *Luke 1:67-80*

Zacharias reflects on God's covenant faithfulness:

I. The fulfillment of past promises; and

II. The fulfillment of future promises

## *Today at Covenant...*

### **Morning Worship Service**

9:30 am

### **Christmas Program**

11:00 am

### **No Choir Rehearsal**

### **Evening Worship Service**

6:30 pm

Scripture: *Luke 2:1-7*

Sermon: *Christmas and the Wheels of History (Part 2)*

### **Fellowship Coffee Time**

*Will be held following this evening's service*

*Parish 2 and 3 are responsible for cookies*

### **Offerings**

(am) CEAF

(pm) Creation Station, Christian preschool

### **Infant Nursery**

(am) Darlene Van Hal, Melissa Van Donselaar

(pm) Barb Vos, Libby Te Grotenhuis

### **Toddler Nursery**

(am) Tara Fransman, Laurel De Vries, Jared De Vries

(pm) Holly Schiebout, Briana Van Gorp

Floater - (am) Kristin Reimer (pm) Rachel De Jong

### **Enfolding**

Greg & Darcy Horstman

### **Greeters**

Harry & Linda Verhoef

### **Impromptu Hospitality Hosts**

Lawrence & Irene Blom

### **Librarians**

(am) Judy De Vries, Deb Braahart, Sharon Fopma

(pm) Linda, Jon, & Elizabeth Verhoef

## Explanation of Our Worship

This brief explanation is intended to help explain the rationale for our mode of worship. In our day, it is customary to classify worship as "traditional" or "contemporary." Since the God we are worshipping is timeless, we avoid such time-bound references to characterize His worship. We prefer to call our worship "biblical."

While worship is the highlight of our week, indeed of our lives, and while it reunites us with our church family, the focus of worship is not on ourselves, but on God. There are two fundamental principles involved in biblical worship: (1) Worship is governed by what God has revealed about Himself in His Word. A corollary is that worship is to be in accord with what He has prescribed as acceptable worship. (2) Worship is a dialogue between God and His covenant people. So defined, worship is a communication. In this communication God speaks to us through His Word and we respond to Him either in prayer or in singing. Every aspect of worship must have a biblical reason and a biblical defense. It is of utmost importance that we assume a reverential posture in the presence of God.

The Consistory supervises and is responsible for every aspect of our worship service. The pastor, or guest pastor, leads us in worship, under the authority of the Consistory.

The songs we sing are chosen primarily for their theology or biblical accuracy. Biblical worship is aware of the importance of music to God, and has always appreciated melody, harmony, and rhythm. But all of that is secondary to a higher, primary concern: faithfulness to Scripture. Our songs are intended to complement, support, and apply the theme of the message.

1. *Call to Worship:* The Lord officially summons us to worship Him. This is usually done with the reading of an appropriate Scripture passage.
2. *Prayer of Invocation:* We call upon the Lord to assist and prepare us for the solemn task of worshipping Him; that our worship would be acceptable to Him.
3. *Hymn of Praise:* We extol the Lord in singing.
4. *God's greeting:* God welcomes us in His house of worship, and greets with His "Grace, Peace, and Mercy."
5. *Reading of the Law:* Here we hear God's law proclaimed to us. The Law is normative for our lives and reveals God's will for Christian living.
6. *Hymn of Confession:* In acknowledgement of our failure to keep the Law, we implore the Lord's mercy, or sing of His mercy. In some cases, a song of gratitude may also be sung at this point.
7. *Assurance of Pardon:* In response to our song of penitence, the Lord responds with the assurance that our sins are forgiven in Christ, wholly by grace.
8. *Congregational Prayer:* Here, the worship leader addresses the Lord with the petitions of the congregation. Prayer is often composed of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication, or ACTS.
9. *Hymn of Preparation:* This song prepares us to hear the word of God, often anticipating the theme of the sermon.
10. *Sermon:* This is the center of the worship service. It is not because we place a premium on oration or human eloquence. It is because at this point the Lord speaks to His people, through His word and servant. The purpose of a sermon is to focus on Christ and His finished work. The desired response is *never* "what a preacher," but *always* "what a Savior!"
11. *Hymn of Response:* We respond with appropriate singing, again emphasizing the theme of the sermon.
12. *Offerings:* This is an offering to the Lord, usually for a cause we support.
13. *Doxology:* This is a song in which we celebrate the glory and supreme majesty of God, while accentuating our complete dependence on Him and His goodness to us.
14. *Benediction:* The worship service is officially over. The Lord dismisses us with His blessing.

If you have any further questions about our church or ministries, please do not hesitate to contact one of our elders or the Pastor.

Dear Visitor,  
We heartily welcome you.  
The Lord will richly bless you,  
and avail ourselves to help  
us more aware of your presence.  
Please take a moment to fill out this card.

### Name

- Mr.  
 Mrs.  
 Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

I am currently a member of \_\_\_\_\_

### Future Contact

- I live in the area,  
 I live in the area a  
 I am just passing  
 I just moved here  
 I would like a visit  
 I would like a visit  
 I would like to ob

Please let us know \_\_\_\_\_

### Comments:

me you to our worship service today. It is our prayer that the  
s us as we worship Him. In our attempt to get to know you,  
s of your spiritual needs, we have designed this form to make  
your presence, and if desired to establish contact with you.  
ment to fill it out, and drop it in the offering plate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Apt. #

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Zip Code

) \_\_\_\_\_

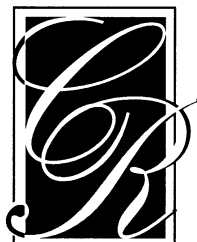
member of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

and do not belong to any church.  
and belong to a local church.  
through town on a visit, business, or vacation.  
e and am looking for a church to affiliate with.  
t from the deacons.  
t from an elder or the pastor.  
tain literature about your church.

in what way we may be of service to you:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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### **Covenant Reformed Church**

2805 Fifield Road, Pella, IA 50219

Phone: 641/620-1777

Worship Times: 9:30 am and 6:30 pm

E-mail: [covenant@iowatelecom.net](mailto:covenant@iowatelecom.net)

Website: [www.covenantpella.org](http://www.covenantpella.org)

Office Hours: Monday -Thursday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm

### **Pastor: Rev. Patrick Edouard**

Phone: 641/621-1438

E-mail: [edouardness@mchsi.com](mailto:edouardness@mchsi.com)

### **Covenant's Media Ministry**

In addition to our downloadable internet sermons,  
Covenant Radio Ministry can be heard on KCWN 99.9 FM

Our worship services are broadcast live every Sunday at  
9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

We also sponsor the Reformed Pulpit heard every weeknight  
on KCWN at 8:05 p.m.

Our services can also be heard on KCOB 95.9 FM or 1280 AM  
at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday Mornings.

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The congregation is requested to be seated at 9:25 am and 6:25 pm  
so that they can enjoy the prelude and adopt a  
worshipful attitude in preparation for the service.

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Although Covenant Reformed Church is equipped with ample nursery capacity for  
both infants and toddlers, parents who wish to take their young children to the  
sanctuary during worship are welcome to do so. However, if a child becomes  
disruptive at any time during the service, parents are urged to remove the child  
promptly in order that the congregation may worship undisturbed.

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If you are interested in becoming a member of Covenant Reformed Church  
or for more information about our church or its ministries,  
please contact the pastor or the elder at the door.